

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed September 17, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24 have been amended. Claims 32-34 are added. Claims 1-34 are pending in this application, with claims 1, 12, and 24 being the only independent claims. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

An Information Disclosure Statement was filed on October 15, 2002. Acknowledgement of consideration of the references cited therein is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as indefinite. The Examiner states that the phrase "capable of being used" makes it difficult to ascertain the scope of the claims. Claim 12 has been amended to remove the unclear language. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, now be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3, 5, 9, 13-20, 22, and 24-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,810,680 (Lobb) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,062,991 (Moriarty).

Claims 4, 6-8, 10-12, 21, and 23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over Lobb in view of Moriarty and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,117,013 (Eiba).

The present invention relates to a method for transmitting sports data between a mobile terminal and a sports database in a sports server. The sports server includes a processor for managing the sports data to be saved and for managing queries of the database. The mobile terminal accesses the sports server through a public mobile communication

network which allows the sports data to be input to the sports server from all areas covered by the public mobile communication network. The data input to the mobile terminal is directly transmitted to the server using the public communication network and recorded in the sports database. Each of the independent claims 1, 12, and 24 require directly transmitting data from the mobile terminal to the sports server using a public communication network when the sport data is received by the mobile terminal.

Independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the present invention uses a public mobile communication network which communicates with a large variety of different types of mobile terminals by including the limitation that a determination is made regarding what type of mobile device being used with the sport server so that the sport server communicates with the proper software and parameters. (see page 9, lines 5-10, and page 10, lines 10-12). Claims 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, and 11 are amended to be consistent with the amendments made to independent claim 1.

Independent claims 1, 12, and 24 are further amended to remove the requirement that the sport data is input by a user. As stated on page 5, lines 13-17, a detecting device which detects the sport data and sends it to the input device may be used to automatically input the sport data instead of relying on a user to input the data manually. New claims 32-34 are added to recite a limitation drawn to the automatic input of sport data.

Dependent claims 16, 17, and 19 are amended to correct their dependencies.

Lobb discloses a mobile unit for recording data, i.e., golf scores, on the mobile unit during the play of a game. After the game is complete, the mobile unit of Lobb is then connected to a computer station 150 located off the field or course for uploading and downloading the golf scores already recorded on the mobile unit. Lobb fails to teach that the

sports data may be loaded directly from the mobile unit to the remote computer using a wireless connection as it is being input because the data is only recorded on the mobile unit during the playing of the game. Since Lobb requires that the mobile unit be physically connected to the computer 150 for loading data, Lobb also fails to teach using a public mobile communication network to record the golf data, as recited in independent claims 1, 12, and 24.

Moriarty discloses a method and apparatus for communication, calculation and recording keeping for golf courses. According to Moriarty, a user inputs data to a golfer's interface at each hole. The golfer's interface may be arranged at each hole or it may be arranged in the golf cart. The golfer's interface 300 then sends the data in real time to a manager's interface 200 using a golf-course specific radio interface that is used at each golf course between the golfer's interface and the manager's interface (see col. 5, lines 31-38). Although Moriarty discloses that the information is sent from the golfer's interface to the manager's interface in real time, Moriarty fails to disclose that this communication uses a public mobile communication network, as recited in independent claims 1 and 24.

Furthermore, since Lobb and Moriarty disclose system that are golf course specific radio communication systems, the input devices used by the golfers to input data are designed as part of the golf course specific system. Accordingly, there is no need to determine the type of input device being used in the Lobb and Moriarty systems. Since Moriarty and Lobb disclose that the input devices are designed as part of the overall system, Moriarty and Lobb teach away from requiring a determination of the type of mobile terminal (i.e., input device) being used, as recited in claims 1 and 12.

Accordingly, independent claims 1 is allowable over Lobb and Moriarty for these additional reasons.

Regarding the rejection of independent claim 12 as obvious over Lobb and Moriarty in further view of Eiba, it is respectfully submitted that Eiba fails to teach or suggest using a public mobile communication network to record sport data. Eiba discloses a game device for playing an electronic lottery type game in which users can contact the central computer using various types of game devices such as mobile phones, personal computers, and lap tops (see col. 2, lines 40-61). The only requirement is that the game devices used have a display to display the output, i.e., the winning numbers of the game. Thus, Eiba merely discloses a system for registering for an electronic lottery using a game devices which use data telecommunications. While Eiba discloses the use of many different types of game devices for use in playing electronic lottery-type games, the system disclosed by Eiba fails to provide motivation for inputting sport data to a sport server in real time using an input device connected to a public mobile communication network, as recited in independent claim 12, which allows the sport data to be saved on the sport server as the game is being played.

A prima facie case of obviousness requires the following three criteria: (1) there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings, (2) there must be a reasonable expectation of success, and (3) the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. The teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, and not based on applicant's disclosure.

The use of game devices in Eiba for playing the electronic lottery fails to teach or suggest inputting sport data to a sport server in real time using an input device connected to a public mobile communication network. Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that since


Eiba discloses only playing an electronic lottery, Eiba fails to provide motivation for inputting sport data to a sport server with an input device which is connected to the sport server using a public mobile communications network. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that a prima facie case for obviousness has not been established at least for independent claim 12.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 12 is allowable over Lobb in view of Moriarty and Eiba.

Dependent claims 2-11, 13-23, and 25-34, each being dependent on one of independent claims 1, 12, and 24, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claims 1, 12, and 24.

The application is now deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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Dated: December 20, 2002



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In the Claims:

Amend claims 1, 2, 5, 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 16, 17, 19, and 24 as follows :

1. (Amended) A method of transmitting sport data between a mobile terminal and a sport database connected to a sport server, the sport server including a processor for managing sport data to be saved in the sport database and for managing queries of the database, said method comprising the steps of:

(a) establishing a communication connection between the mobile terminal and the sport server [via] using a public mobile communications network so that the mobile terminal is in communication with the sport server;

(b) determining, by the sport server, a type of mobile terminal used in said step (a) and selecting a prompt display appropriate for the determined type of mobile terminal;

(c) setting the mobile terminal in a sport data input mode in response to receiving the prompt display and selecting a selected sport to which [the] sport data to be inputted pertains;

[(c)] (d) inputting[, by a user,] the sport data into the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server;

[(d)] (e) directly transmitting the inputted sport data from the mobile terminal to the sport server [via] using the communication connection established in said step

(a) as the sports data is input by the user in said step (c); and

[(e)] (f) recording the sport data in the sport database.

2. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, by the sport server, a geographical location of the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server and determining a field in which to enter the sport data in the sport database in response to the geographical location determined by said sport server before said step [(e)] (f) and wherein said step [(e)] (f) further comprises recording the sport data in the field in the sport database determined by said sport server.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said step [(b)] (c) comprises the steps of prompting, by the server, a user for a sport and inputting, by the user, a selected sport and said step [(c)] (d) comprises prompting, by the server, a user for the sport data using a prompt specific to the selected sport, and inputting, by a user, of sport data into the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server.

6. (Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of identifying, by the sport server, a type of the mobile terminal that is in communication with the sport server in said step (a) and said step (b) comprises determining display and communication parameters for the mobile terminal [before performing said step (b)].

8. (Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein the sports database includes a plurality of fields and said method further comprises the step of determining a field in the sport database in which to store the sport data based on the selected sport and the sport data input by the user in said step [(c)] (d).

9. (Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein said step [(b)] (c) comprises the steps of prompting, by the server, a user for a sport and inputting, by the user, a selected sport and said step [(c)] (d) comprises prompting, by the server, a user for the sport data using a prompt specific to the selected sport and inputting, by a user, of sport data into the mobile terminal in communication with the sport server.

10. (Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of identifying, by the sport server, a type of the mobile terminal that is in communication with the sport server in said step (a) and said step (b) comprises determining display and communication parameters for the mobile terminal [before performing said step (b)], wherein said steps of prompting comprises transmitting a prompt to a display of the mobile terminal using the determined display and communications parameters.

11. (Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein said sport database includes a plurality of fields and said method further comprises the step of determining a field in the sport database in which to store the sport data based on the selected sport and the sport data input by the user in said step [(c)] (d).

12. (Amended) A system for managing sports data related to statistics for one or more sports, comprising:

a sport database for storing sports data;

a sport server connected to a public mobile communications network and comprising a processor operatively connected to said sport database for managing the sports data;

an input device arranged for receiving an input of sports data [from a user] and directly transmitting the sports data [input by a user] to said sport server [via] using said public mobile communications network as said sports data is input to said input device, said sports server operatively arranged for receiving the sports data from said input device and for managing queries to said sport database from said input device;

a user database connected to said sport server for storing user data for each user having authority for inputting the sports data;

a connection database connected to said sport server for storing connection data for a plurality of different types of [terminals capable of being used as] input devices for inputting the sports data;

means for determining a type of input device in communication with said sport server and for determining display and communication parameters of the input device; and

means for transmitting prompts to the input device and receiving replies to said prompts using the determined display and communication parameters for determining the sports data received from the input device.

16. (Amended) The system of claim [14] 15, wherein said sports server comprises means for determining a geographical location of the mobile terminal.

17. (Amended) The system of claim [15] 16, wherein said means for selecting a selected field comprises means for selecting a selected field of said plural fields in said sport database in which to store the sports data in response to the replies to said prompts and in response to the geographical location of the mobile terminal.

19. (Amended) The system of claim [17] 18, wherein said sport database comprises a plurality of fields and said sport server comprises means for selecting a selected field of said plural fields in said sport database to store the sports data in response to the selected sport.

24. (Amended) A mobile terminal for transmitting sports data to a sports database of a sports server connected to a communication network, said mobile terminal comprising:

means for initiating a communication connection with the sports server using a public mobile communications network;

means for setting the mobile terminal in a sports data input mode;

means for receiving a selection of a selected sport to which the sports data to be inputted pertains; and

means for receiving sport data at the mobile terminal and directly transmitting the sport data [input] from the mobile terminal to the sports server using the public mobile communications network as the sports data is [input by the user] received by the mobile terminal.